

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03
PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05
/088 W
-----058285 180324Z /70

R 170100Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9025
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 0222
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

3.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR TH LA VM CH PBOR
SUBJECT: THAI-LAO RELATIONS; SINO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS

1. A SENIOR THAI DIPLOMATIC SOURCE TOLD US FEBRUARY 16 THAT THE RECENT AVIATION TALKS IN VIENTIANE HAD PRODUCED NO AGREEMENT ON INCREASING BANGKOK-VIENTIANE AIR SERVICE. THE THAI HAD PROPOSED MORE FLIGHTS, BUT THE LAO FELT THAT LOAD FACTORS ON THE CURRENT TWO FLIGHTS A WEEK WERE STILL TOO LOW TO WARRANT SCHEDULING MORE. THE THAI WOULD LIKE MORE FLIGHTS BECAUSE THE PRICE THEY COULD CHARGE FOR A BANGKOK-VIENTIANE TICKET WAS ALMOST TWICE THE PRICE OF THE SUBSTITUTE BANGKOK-UDORN FLIGHT.

2. OUR SOURCE SAID THE RTG WAS NOT RUSHING INTO ANY DECISION ON OPENING MORE THAI-LAO BORDER CORSSING POINTS. IF MORE POINTS WERE OPENED, AS THE LAO HAD REQUESTED, AND IF THERE WAS NO INCREASE IN TRADE, THEN

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THE THAI WOULD HAVE INCURRED THE EXTRA COSTS OF OPERATING THE BORDER FACILITIES WITH NO CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN REVENUE. THERE WAS ALSO THE PROBLEM OF MAKING IT EASIER FOR REFUGEES TO ENTER THAILAND AND THE SECURITY PROBLEM OF MAKING IT EASIER FOR "VIETNAMESE" TO GET BACK AND FORTH.

3. SWITCHING TOPICS, OUR SOURCE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT
THERE HAD BEEN FIGHTING FOUR TO FIVE DAYS AGO BETWEEN
THE CHINESE AND VIETNAMESE ALONG THE LAI CHAU PROVINCE
BORDER. WE SAID THAT WE HAD RECEIVED NO SUCH REPORTS.
ROBERTS

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NNN

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